

## ABSTRACT

A transponder used in conjunction with a computer software product discourages unauthorized copying. The transponder is attached to or embedded in the computer-readable media (e.g. the CD-ROMs, DVDs) that comes with the product.

- 5 Before the software product can be installed on a user's computer, the installation software may activate a radio-frequency (RF) device and query the transponder for an identification number. The identification number is associated with the particular copy of the software that the user is attempting to install. The installation software attempts to verify the identification number and, if successful, proceeds with the
- 10 installation of the software.

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